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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INCREASES ASSISTANCE TO NORTH AND NORTHEAST FLOODING VICTIMS

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the United States Embassy in Brazil is investing US\$ 100,000 to assist the states of Amazonas and Ceará

BRASÍLIA, MAY 20, 2009 – As announced by the United States Embassy in Brazil Deputy Chief of Mission Lisa Kubiske, the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) are providing additional US\$ 100,000 for the acquisition of hygiene kits to populations displaced from flood-damaged houses in Amazonas and Ceará. The purchase of these items will be done by humanitarian institutions Caritas and Catholic Relief Services, which are also responsible for having the products distributed through the states' Civil Defense agencies.

In addition to the U.S. Government support, North American enterprises members of the social responsibility group Mais Unidos have been also contributing to mitigate the impacts resulted from the heavy rains in the region. U.S. companies like Cummins and Becton, Dickinson & Co. announced the donation of medical supplies, clothing and food that will be distributed through the São Paulo state Civil Defense Agency. The Mais Unidos group's actions towards assisting the affected states have been coordinated by the not for profit organization United Way.

According to the National Civil Defense, there are still an estimated number of 450,000 people impacted by heavy rainfalls, flooding and mudslides at different locations from the North and Northeast of Brazil. A total of 81 municipalities were directly impacted in the state of Ceará, while this number reached 47 in the state of Amazonas.

USEFUL WEBLINKS

U.S. Embassy in Brazil: <http://www.embaixadaamericana.org.br/>

USAID/Brazil: <http://brazil.usaid.gov>

Mais Unidos: <http://www.embaixadaamericana.org.br/csr-index.php>

Catholic Relief Services: <http://crs.org/brazil/>

Caritas: <http://www.caritasbrasileira.org/>